



VERSES AND PARABLES

WILLIS E. BLOOMFIELD



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VERSES AND PARABLES

VERSES AND PARABLES

*A little Collection
of fugitive Prose and Verse
now Arranged and
Printed for Gift Distribution*

by

WILLIS E. BLOOMFIELD



Each little ray of light
Helps make the world more bright.

Printed by George Seton Thompson Co.

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF MY WIFE
MARGARET CONKLIN BLOOMFIELD
WHOSE SYMPATHY AND APPRE-
CIATION HAS BEEN FOR
YEARS MY STRONGEST
INSPIRATION

FOREWORD

*Who has endured pain's utmost hell,
Could he but find fit words to tell
How even for such all may be well—
That out of loss we wrest our gain
And Love is lord of fear and pain—
He might have helpful word to say
To others treading life's hard way.*

*Such word I strive herein to speak;
Yet know that words are all too weak
To voice our seeing. 'Neath the sun
The tiny streamlets prattling run,
Proclaiming loud to all who come
A shallow flow: the deeps are dumb;
No voice is theirs as still they lie
To whisper of infinity.*

The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou hast come to trust.

Ruth II; 4.

VERSES AND PARABLES

OUR TRUST

Though now our heart is sick with
 grief and yearning,
 And scarred with pain;
Though joy seems fled, love's fire no
 longer burning,
 And hope but vain;—
Yet do we trust that strength will
 spring from sorrow,—
 That pain and strife
Are but the heralds of a glad
 tomorrow
Of fuller life.

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: For unto thee will I pray. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness, make thy way straight before my face.

Psalms V; 2, 8.

A PRAYER ¹

Dear God, we pray for light; the
 mists of creed
Too long have hid thy purpose from
 our sight:
Teach us to know ourselves and thee
 aright,
And grant us clearer faith for wider
 need.
The old creeds fail us now, outworn
 they breed
Unfaith, and drive us back into the
 night

¹ Written A. D. 1891. See also PRAYER AND ANSWER,
Page 73; and REALIZATION, Page 109.

We have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews V; 12-14.

From which we struggle upward
toward the light:

Their half truths led us once, now
they impede.

We need new bottles for our newer
wine;

We need a larger faith to help us live
A larger life; new knowledge that
will give

A lamp to lead us on to the divine:
So may we climb to where the
Christ-Man stood

Alone, our highest type of Love and
Good.

For thine eyes are upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah XXXII; 19.

THE PARABLE OF THE LITTLE VESSELS

There was a certain rich man which had great possessions: and his heart yearned over all the poor and needy, insomuch that he desired greatly to give them of his treasure. And he sent servants throughout the land to cry aloud and say that whoso would might come and receive freely.

And many which heard said one unto another, Surely this man hath not so great riches that he will give freely whatsoever we may ask; yet, peradventure, he will give to every

Not every one that sayeth unto me,
Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of
heaven; but he that doeth the will of my
Father which is in heaven.

Matthew VII; 21.

man a little. And they said, Verily it profiteth not that we should toil to the making of many or large vessels, for if we ask much we shall come away empty. And they wrought each man to himself one very little vessel, and journeyed to the rich man's house.

And the rich man filled to every man his little vessel full to overflowing. And when they beheld that there still remained great abundance they said unto him, Give us more, we pray thee. But he answered and said, Not so; for ye have not wherewithal to carry away. And they returned every man to his own place and their hearts were sore

For whosoever hath, to him shall be
giben, and he shall have more abundance.

Matthew XIII; 12.

within them; and they reviled him that he had promised much and bestowed little.

Yet I say unto you that the bounty of God is without measure, and that he gives freely and without cost to every man that which he is able to receive. And to him that hath shall be given.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise . . . Joseph went up from Galilee, into the city of David which is called Bethlehem, with Mary, his wife.

And so it was that while they were there, she brought forth her first born son, and laid him in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

Matthew I; 18: Luke II; 4-7.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The centuries have rolled away
 Since Galilee
Rang with the angel song that hailed
 The Christ to be:

And I beside my dying fire,
 This Christmas Eve,
Ponder that wondrous tale which love
 And faith believe.

.

And as I muse, the long years fade
 Like shadows fled;
I seem again a little child
 In fancy led

And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and said, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 11; 8-11.

To far off Bethlehem which sleeps
 'Neath Syrian skies,
Where cradled in his manger low
 The Christ-child lies.

I see the shepherds on the hill
 Above the town,
To whom the angel of the Lord
 In love came down;

Bearing through widely opened skies,
 That flamed like morn,
The message, "Joy to all I bring;
 The Christ is born!"

I see the Wise Men of the East
 Come from afar,
Seeking the new born King of Men,
 Led by his star;

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there came wise men from the east to worship him. And, lo, his star, which they had seen in the east, went before them till it came and stood over where the child was. And they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.

Matthew II; 1-11.

I see them lay their costly gifts,
 Of spices rare
And fragrant myrrh, low at his feet,
 And worship there.

I see the Virgin Mother, pure,
 Bend from above
To kiss his brow, her eyes alight
 With wondering love.

While over all the silent stars
 In peace look down;
And angels keep safe watch and ward
 O'er David's town.

.

Ages have passed away, and faith
 Sometimes grows cold;

For other foundation can no man lay
than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians III; 11.

Men say it is a fairy tale,
That story old;—

I know not! But upon our hearts
Its peace yet lies;
And still we read its words of hope
With tear dimmed eyes.

For faith to live we yet must lean
On Good above;
And love still finds its highest type
In Christ's pure love.

And Jesus saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark XI; 22-3.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Have faith in God: so spake a still
small voice.

When pain doth most assail thee,
then rejoice.

For still his love surrounds thee, and
his hand

Doth guide: Be still and understand.

Have faith in God: when fears oppress thee sore,

Fear not; but only trust in him the
more.

For still are stretched beneath thee
and above,

The everlasting arms of Love.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

Micah VI; 8.

Have faith in God: when dark the
 shadows fall,
Thou needst to know that he is All
 in All;
And to his children doth this prom-
 ise give
In love, "Ye shall not die, but live!"

Have faith in God: I heard the mes-
 sage sweet,
And where he leads I walk with wil-
 ling feet;
Content and glad to keep his least
 command,
For now through faith I understand.

This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the Lord; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.

Jeremiah XIII; 25.

THE PARABLE OF THE KING'S SON

There was a certain child which was born to great riches and power and dominion: For he was the son of a great King and heir to all his possessions.

And it came to pass that evil men, which had rebelled against the great King and loved him not, enticed the child from his father's house, and, having led him beyond the borders of his kingdom, delivered him into the keeping of poor and sinful men that he might become even as these. And

This people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should turn again, and I should heal them.

Matthew XIII; 15.

the child was enslaved by cruel taskmasters, and suffered hunger and cold and weariness, and was beaten with many stripes.

And the child grew in years and came to manhood. And because of his great misery his heart became hard within him, and was filled with fear and hate and all evil desires; so that he was even as those who were of his company. For he knew not of his birthright, nor of the peace and plenty of his father's kingdom to which he was heir; but because of his ignorance he believed that all men were born to evil and misery. And he could not be persuaded that it was not so, though

The Spirit itself beareth witness that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

Romans VIII; 16, 17.

many messengers from his father's kingdom came unto him and declared the truth.

But I say unto you that this one was always heir to his father's kingdom, and that peace and plenty and righteousness always waited for him therein, although he knew it not. And many there be which are like unto him.

And he kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke XXII; 41, 42.

THY WILL: NOT MINE

Dear God, long have I trusted erring
 sense
To search out good, but only found
 despair;
Now would I lean on thy omnipo-
 tence,
And shape my life into one ceaseless
 prayer:—
That I may do thy will!

Vain is man's wisdom, and a rope of
 sand
His unhelped strength, and so I
 stumbled then;—

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Luke XV; 18, 19.

But now, at last, I dimly understand
Thy ways are higher than the ways
of men:—

So would I do thy will!

I too have sojourned in a far off
place

And fed on empty husks, until I
yearned

To see again my Father's house and
face,—

So am I come, a prodigal returned:—
Seeking to do thy will!

Make strong my faith to turn from
things that seem,

Unto the better things which do
appear

And when the Comforter is come whom
I will send unto you from the Father, even
the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from
the Father; he shall bear witness of me.

John XV; 26, (Rev. Ver.)

When we awaken from this fleshly
dream,
And to the still small voice of Truth
give ear:—
Striving to do thy will!

Teach me to know that the dear
Christ who wrought
Among the hills of far off Galilee,
Still gives to all the help that
faileth not,
And worketh now thy healing work
in me:—
Doing thy perfect will!

And he led them forth by the right way,
that they might go to a city of habitation.

Psalms CVII; 7.

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom,
I have led thee in right paths.

Proverbs IV; 11.

WE SHALL BE LED

We shall be led by ways we do not
know

Unto the Promised Land which faith
hath seen,—

That smiling land where milk and
honey flow,

And where still waters are and pas-
tures green:

Our fleshly sense would choose amiss,
and so

God leadeth us by ways which he
doth know.

We shall be led in paths we would
not choose;

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there; for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Luke XVII; 20, 21.

And pillared cloud and fire by day
and night
Shall go before us (lest the way we
lose)
Until that Peaceful Land dawns on
our sight:
Though erring human sense would
fain refuse,
God leadeth us in paths which he
doth choose.

We shall be led,—what matter how
or where?
That Heavenly Kingdom unto which
we yearn
We shall not find far off, and say,
“Lo there!”

**For as many as are led by the Spirit
of God, they are the sons of God.**

Romans VIII; 14.

It builds within us when to God we
turn:

If we but lean on him and trust his
care,

Our opened eyes shall see Heaven
everywhere.

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Psalms LXXXII; 5.

THE PARABLE OF THE DARKENED HOUSE

There was a certain man which had dwelt from his birth in a house which his forefathers had builded. And, forasmuch as these had not loved the light of day because it made plain their shortcomings, this house was cunningly contrived so that the light might not enter therein, but it was illumined only by candles whose feeble light these men had greatly admired.

And it was so that this man, forasmuch as he had lived always in

The fool walketh in darkness: all his days also he eateth in darkness; and he hath much sorrow and wrath: he departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.

Ecclesiastes II; 14: V; 17: VI; 4.

that darkened house and had never gone forth therefrom, knew not that there was any greater or better light than that which shone forth from his dim candles. So was he altogether contented with the dim light and shadows of his darkened house, and sought not for the perfect light by which wiser men walked.

And it came to pass when the man was old, so that his eyes were dim and he stumbled and walked astray in the deceptive light of his darkened house, that there came unto him one which had compassion on his unhappiness. And this one said unto him, Open, I pray thee, the shuttered windows and cunningly

Take heed therefore that the light which
is in thee be not darkness.

Luke XI; 35.

contrived doors of this thy house that the light of day may enter therein and thou mayst see clearly.

But he scorned this good counsel and would not be persuaded; for he said, Verily I will not open, for there is no light that is better or greater than the light of these my candles by which I have always walked, and outside of this my house there is only darkness.

And I say unto you that there be many men which live in darkened houses of consciousness and which because of pride and ignorance are satisfied with darkness rather than light.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew X; 42.

IT WAS ONLY . . .

It was only a sunny smile
And little it cost in the giving,
 But it scattered the night
 Like morning light
And made the day worth living.
 Through life's dull warp a web it
 wove
 In shining colors of hope and love;
And the angels smiled as they
 watched above:
Yet little it cost in the giving.

It was only a kindly word,
A word that was lightly spoken;

It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew XVIII; 14.

Yet not in vain,
For it stilled the pain
Of a heart that was nearly broken:
It strengthened a faith beset by
fears,
And groping blindly through mists
of tears
For light to brighten the coming
years;
Although it was lightly spoken.

It was only a helping hand,
And it seemed of little availing;
But its clasp was warm,
And it saved from harm
A brother whose strength was failing.
Its touch was tender as angel
wings,

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew V; 7.

But it rolled the stone from the
hidden springs,
And pointed the way to higher
things:
Though it seemed of little availing.

A smile, a word, a friendly hand;
How easily each is given!
Yet it may win
A soul from sin,
Or smooth the way to heaven.
A smile may cheer the failing heart;
A word may soften pain's keenest
smart;
A touch may lead us from sin
apart:
And each is so easily given.

Our days on the earth are as a shadow,
and there is none abiding.

Chronicles XXIX; 15.

I must work the works of him that sent
me, while it is day: the night cometh when
no man can work.

John IX; 4.

THE LONG DAY'S CLOSE

“The long day draweth to a close,”
Yet ere its end
We still have time to pluck a rose
To give a friend.

There yet is time, ere drops the sun
Below the west,
To speak a cheering word to one
By fear opprest;—

Time still for many a little deed
Of kindness,
To help our brothers in their need;
Or soothe and bless.

He that will see good days, let him
eschew evil, and do good: . . . For so is
the will of God, that with well doing ye may
put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

I Peter III; 10, 11: II; 15.

'T will seem perhaps we cannot spare
From our own woe
Time to relieve another's care:
Believe not so!

We who have suffered should be
To rise above [strong
Our pain and grief; to sing a song,
To work, to love;—

That whoso falters on Life's road
May see and hear,
And bear his seeming heavy load
With freshened cheer.

.
So may our day draw to its close;
Life's sunset gun
Calling us to well earned repose,
And God's "Well done!"

Bear ye one another's burdens and so
fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians VI; 2.

THE LAW OF SERVICE

“The fields are white for harvest
But the laborers are few,”
So spake our Lord in Galilee,
And still the words are true;—
About you in Life’s waiting fields
There’s work for you to do.

The world still groans in bondage,
Its ransom must be bought
With untold wealth of loving deeds
Inspired by loving thought;—
And that which you can do to help
Is waiting to be wrought.

Your own load may seem heavy
And more than you can bear,

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee, or thirsty, and gave thee drink? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew XXV; 37, 40.

So that for others' burdens
You have no strength to spare;—
But your own load will lighter grow
When you another's share.

The good we do to others
Our own good best assures,
The cup of water given in love
A sure reward secures;—
Carry your brother's burdens,
And God will carry yours!

This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Acts IV; 11.

THE PARABLE OF THE REJECTED STONE

There was a certain large stone which lay in a field. And the outward appearance thereof was rough and shapeless, and altogether unlovely, and defiled with the dust of the earth.

And many passed that way and looked upon the stone. And it was to them an offense and a block of stumbling; and they marvelled greatly that the owner of the field suffered it to cumber the ground, and commanded not his laborers that

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I John IV; 21.

they should break it in pieces and destroy it utterly, that he might grow good fruit in the place thereof. And they cursed it, and spat upon it, and defiled it the more, and went their way.

And at last there came also a certain man which was a workman in the service of the King and had gained much understanding. And when this one looked upon the stone he saw not as the many, but rather he saw that which was altogether perfect and lovely. And his heart yearned that all men should see even as he had seen.

And he stooped down and removed the earth and the stains which de-

He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

I John II; 11.

filed it, and he took hammer and chisel and wrought with diligence and understanding to cut away all that belonged not to the perfect reality which it had been given him to see. And when he had made it manifest to the sight of all men, the many came again and beheld, and were greatly astonished.

And they said unto him, Thou hast indeed created a beautiful and perfect thing. And he answered and said unto them, Not so; for I added no least jot or tittle to that which ye despised and reviled because ye saw not the reality thereof; and I took away but that which hid it from your sight. And they knew in their

This is my commandment, that ye love
one another, as I have loved you.

John XV; 12.

hearts that it was even as he had said.

And I say unto you that the stone which was rejected and despised of many is like unto thy brother, which thou condemneth because of the evil seeming that hideth him from thy sight and which yet is no part of him.

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him,
and he shall hear thee.

Job XXII; 27.

PRAYER AND ANSWER¹

I prayed for light through dark and
barren years
And found it not; yet knew that
light must be,—
Else Christ had vainly wrought in
Galilee
To save a world from all its pains
and fears,—
And so prayed on. “It must be
that God hears,”
I said, and strained my weary eyes
to see

¹ Written A. D., 1912. See also A PRAYER, Page 5;
and REALIZATION, Page 109.

Ye ask and ye receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James IV; 3.

His hand roll back the clouds that
 compassed me. . . .

At last, a still voice sounded in my
 ears:

“He prays amiss who pleads for un-
 earned good,

And none may see the Light Supernal
 shine

Save as his life reflects the Life
 Divine.

Through good alone is Goodness un-
 derstood.

Follow the Christ who showed the
 only way;

So shall thine eyes behold Love’s
 Perfect Day.”

Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it.

Revelations III; 8.

THE OPEN DOOR

Like one who wanders in fell dark-
ness vast,
I trod the paths of pain and all un-
rest
For weary, weary years, and came
at last
To dream that death of all things
was the best:

When, lo! I came unto an open door
Piercing the walls that shut my
vision in,—
Which, surely, I had never seen
before

**Now is come salvation, and strength,
and the kingdom of our God, and the power
of his Christ.**

Revelations XII; 10.

Because my eyes were dimmed by
fear and sin;—

And through that door Love led my
stumbling feet
To where the dawn still broadens
into day,
And life becomes more sure and glad
and sweet
Each passing hour, for Love still
leads the way.

.

Christ opened wide that door for all
who lie
Thrall'd in the prison-house of sin
and pain;
But in their blindness men had
passed it by,

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelations XXI; 7.

Or seeking not aright had sought in
vain,—

Had not one selfless seeker for the
Mind
Which was in Jesus lifted up anew
The lamp of Truth whereby all men
may find
That door to peace, and finding it
pass through.

.

Glory to God who set that door for
all!
Homage to Christ who opened it for
aye!
And love to her who heard the
Master's call
To do his work and show anew the
Way!

Enter ye in at the strait gate; because
strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life.

Matthew VII; 13-14.

THE PARABLE OF THE MAN WHICH JOURNEYED

A certain man set out to journey to a far city wherein he desired greatly to abide: and the way thereto lay over high mountains where the path was strait and narrow.

And for a time he walked with exceeding care and diligence; looking neither to the right hand nor the left hand, but always straight before him, lest he should stumble and fall. And his feet slipped not, though the way was rough and steep and danger lay on either hand. And

Then shalt thou walk in the way safely,
and thy feet shall not stumble.

Proverbs III; 23.

each day brought him nearer to the city of his heart's desire.

And when he had journeyed prosperously for many days, it came to pass that for a moment he forebore to walk with care, and turned his eyes from that which lay before him. And straightway his feet stumbled from the narrow path, and he fell headlong down a steep declivity, and was sore bruised and wounded.

And I say unto you that whoso journeyeth the Way of Life that leads to the City of Peace must needs walk straitly; turning neither to the right hand nor the left hand, lest he stumble and fall: for the way thereto is also strait and narrow.

He giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalms CXXVII; 2.

HE GIVETH SLEEP

“He giveth his beloved sleep.”

From the day's toil, and all its
tangled skein

Of seeming loss and grief and fear
and pain,

Who trust him do not seek surcease
in vain.

He dries the tears of all who weep,
And gives to his beloved sleep.

“He giveth his beloved sleep.”

When we have labored all the long
day through

He gives us rest and does our
strength renew,—

I will both lay me down in peace and
sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell
in safety.

Psalms IV; 8.

Then wakens us a new day's task to
do.

Each morn we rise to sow and reap;
Each eventide he gives us sleep.

“He giveth his beloved sleep.”

Because our faith is weak, our courage small,

He so doth ease our burdens, lest we
fall

Toil spent, and fail to reach the goal
at all.

All day we climb life's pathway
steep,

But when night comes he gives us
sleep.

“He giveth his beloved sleep.”

Oft-times we falter and are fain to
stray;

**None shall be weary nor stumble among
them; none shall slumber or sleep.**

Isaiah V; 25.

But still he keeps our feet in the
right way
And leads us safely home at close of
day:

Then, as a shepherd folds his sheep,
He folds us safe and gives us sleep.

“He giveth his beloved sleep.”
His tender love, that spares the
bruised reed,
Grants such dear boon to our poor
human need,—
Till we have grown to Truth and
Life indeed;
And, having learned his laws to
keep,
Awake in him no more to sleep.

This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John XVII; 3.

LIFE ETERNAL

Mortality is but a transient seeming
Which some day shall be swallowed
up in life,—

When we awake from dreaming
Of matter, pain, and strife;
And grow into sure consciousness
That Being in its perfectness
Is knowledge of the Principle of
Love

In which we live and move.

There is no death, for all that seems
to perish
Has never lived, and is not known
of God.

If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans VIII; 2, (Rev. Ver.)

This seeming life we cherish
Is kindred to the clod,
And must return to dust from which
it sprang:
But ere the morning stars together
sang
Man was—and must for evermore
exist;
Else God were unexpressed.

God is our Life, and so we cannot be
The thralls of Death, and subject to
Decay:
Only our sense of death can pass
away,
Our life abides in God through all
eternity.
Mortality awhile may hide the light;

Beloved, now are we the sons of God,
and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:
but we know that we shall be like him, for
we shall see him as he is.

1 John III; 2.

Or erring sense the perfect vision
dim;
But we were fashioned by the In-
finite,
And some day we shall know, and be
like him.

☉ death, where is thy sting? ☉ grave,
where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians XV; 55.

For the law of the Spirit of life in
Christ Jesus hath made me free from the
law of sin and death.

Romans VIII; 2.

THERE IS NO DEATH

Even as a little child, with simple
prayer,
Lies down to sleep, content, when
daylight dies;
Knowing the dawn will greet his
waking eyes,
And a new day new joys for him pre-
pare:—
So may we, trustful of our Father's
care,
Lie down, serene, knowing we shall
arise
To greet a fairer dawn with brighter
skies,

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians XV; 54.

And keep our way up Life's eternal
stair.

We need not fear to follow where
Christ led,

Or to commit our ways unto God's
will;

Surely his hand will guide and guard
us still,

And, there as here, his love supply
our needs.

God is our Life, and he will not
withdraw

The life he gave, nor change his
changeless law.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let him have dominion. So God created man in his own image.

Genesis I; 26, 27.

Let us therefore cast off all the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Romans XIII; 12.

THE PARABLE OF THE LAKE WHICH MIRRORED HEAVEN

There was a certain beautiful lake which lay far from the cities of men, in the still forest solitudes. And the soft summer air above it rippled not its shining surface which was like unto a mirror, reflecting perfectly the blue vault of heaven and all the fleecy clouds that floated there.

But it came to pass that an icy wind stole through the forest from the far fens and marshes which lay

Take unto you the whole armour of
God, that ye may be able to withstand in
the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians VI; 13.

beyond; and blew upon the lake so that its surface became troubled and lashed into waves. And immediately the similitude of the blue sky and fleecy clouds which had appeared in its still depths was shattered into countless fragments so distorted from reality that none could believe them the reflection of the summer heavens: but would have judged them rather to be the flying shadows of weird and terrible creatures of evil.

And like unto this lake is man; which, when he looks steadfastly above, and is not troubled by evil thoughts or desires, reflects only that which is good and perfect: but when

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; . . . Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians VI; 14, 16.

the winds of error blow upon him, and he is troubled thereby, reflects only distorted and writhing shapes of evil seeming.

So doth it concern us greatly that we should guard ourselves with exceeding care against all the winds of error; that we may reflect only the perfect will and attributes of our Father which is in Heaven.

And all things whatsoever ye shall ask
in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew XXI; 22.

REALIZATION¹

Dear God, the light is come, our
outworn creeds
Drop from us as a garment, and our
sight
Grows clear to see ourselves and
thee aright;
We trust thy love to meet our ut-
most needs,
And know thy hand sustains us.
The foul breeds
Of nameless doubts and fears that
thronged the night,

¹ Written A. D., 1916. See also A PRAYER, Page 5; and PRAYER AND ANSWER, Page 73.

Ⓔ thou that hearest prayer, unto thee
shall all flesh come.

Psalms LXV; 2.

Like phantoms disappear in Truth's
clear light;
Self only, now our upward way
impedes:
For thou hast given new bottles for
Truth's wine;—
Hast given a larger faith to help us
live
A larger life; new knowledge that
will give
A lamp to lead us on to the divine:
And though our feet may falter in
the way,
Yet shall our eyes behold Love's
Perfect Day.

I hold it truth with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.

LORD TENNYSON.

AFTERWORD

*So have I written. Now I lay
My pen aside, and "Finished" say!*

*For me, I count this work all gain;
Born of a faith men said was vain,
It helped me vanquish fear of pain:
Now I am moved to send it forth,
With hope that others may find worth
In it. I know it cannot be
To them what it has been to me;
Yet it may shed one little ray
Of light upon some traveler's way.*

*Enough, if it contains one word
In which the voice of Truth is heard
By one, enveloped yet by night,
Who yearns to glimpse the morning
light!*

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